

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7-9 are pending herein.

Base claims 7-9 have been amended to recite that each state includes a period of access and a pre-defined order of priority for enabling access to said collective resource by said functional units. Support is found at least on page 4, lines 6-22 of the specification.

The title has been amended as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Arimilli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,539) in view of Holt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,163).

(1) With regard to claims 7-9, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that none of these claims would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over the combination of Arimilli and Holt.

Applicants can find nothing in Arimilli and Holt that teach, shows or suggest the limitation of each state [of a plurality of states] includes a period of access and a pre-defined order of priority for enabling access to said collective resource by said functional units, as amended in claim 1.

As indicated by the Office Action, Holt discloses an arbitration scheme in managing access to a resource involving a tournament consisting of passing through several arbitration cycles in a predetermined manner and the winner of the tournament becomes the next in line to gain access to the resource. However, Holt's message priority is defined by each user's send buffers 20 and 2 (FIG. 1) and is dependent on message content and related urgency. See, Holt column 14, lines 30-34. Accordingly, Holt does not teach a plurality of states wherein each state includes a period of access and a pre-defined order of priority for enabling access to said collective resource by said functional units, as the present invention.

Since Arimilli and Holt, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of amended independent claims 7-9, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that this claim is allowable and patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. Entry of this Amendment and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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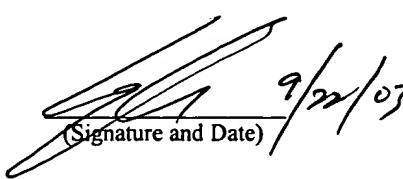
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